

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated June 22, 2004, the Examiner has objected to the drawings because the anilox roller is not clearly shown. This objection is respectfully traversed. The configuration of an anilox roller is well known in the printing art. It is a roller with small cavities (or cells) in a grid-like form on the surface thereof. Fluid supplied to the cavities is controlled by a doctor blade in order to provide a very uniform fluid film. See the description in the Handbook Of Printing Media Technology And Production Methods (Springer, 2001). Figures 4A through 4D clearly show in plan and in cross-section cavities formed in the surface of an anilox roller for distributing release fluid, via a donor roller, to a fuser roller. Therefore, the objection to the drawings should be removed.

Further, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and rejected Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Examiner has kindly indicated that Claims 8-10 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this paper, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicant regards as the invention, and Claims 11-15 have been cancelled without prejudice. For the reasons set forth fully below, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-10, the claims remaining in this Application, as amended, are allowable.

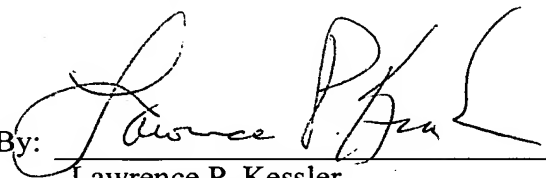
Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sonoguchi (JP2001034106A), and Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamuro (JP11-38814A). The cited references each relate to the supply of a release agent to a fuser roller. The Examiner contends that the references respectively show an anilox metering roller. However, such is not the case, given the above recited definition of an anilox roller documented above. Further, independent Claim 1 has now been amended to particularly define the anilox roller in terms of the metering cavity size, which is not shown, nor in any way anticipated, by the cited references. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully considered to be improper, and should now be removed. For similar reasons, Claim 10, dependent upon Claim 1, and indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter, should also now be allowed.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonoguchi (JP2001034106A) or Yamamuro (JP11-38814A) in view of Condello, et al. (JP11-249475A). The reference to Condello, et al. has been cited by the Examiner to show two doctor blades. However, the reference does not show, or in any way teach, that one blade is oriented in the direction of travel of the anilox roller (with the other blade being oriented in the opposite direction of travel of the anilox roller, as recited in Claim 5). Accordingly, even if the combination proposed by the Examiner were deemed proper, the references cannot be considered as teaching Applicant's invention of an anilox metering roller with opposed doctor blades. Therefore, Applicant's claimed invention would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited references. Thus, amended Claim 7 should now be allowed. For similar reasons, Claims 8 and 9, dependent upon Claim 7, and indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter, should also now be allowed.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Lawrence P. Kessler
Registration No. 24,637
Telephone No. (585) 253-0123
Facsimile No. (585) 726-0894

LPK:dn
NexPress Solutions, Inc.
1447 St. Paul Street
Rochester, NY 14653-7103